



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
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December 6, 2017

TO: Members, State Board of Education

FROM: Jeffrey B. Hauger, Ed.D., Director  
Division of Talent and Performance, Office of Assessment

SUBJECT: Feedback from the Science Advisory Committees on the Grade Four to Grade Five Transition

Below are the comments and concerns made by the Science Advisory Committee from our meetings on November 14 – 16, 2017. The three (3) committees met separately (Elementary on 11/14, Middle School on 11/15, and High School on 11/16) and all unanimously support the change from assessing students at grade four to administering the assessment at grade five.

Comments:

- Good! Fourth graders are not mature enough to handle comprehensive testing; already testing in two (2) different subjects
- Aligns better with the current standards (K-5) as they loop through the grades (more concepts are finished)
- Grade 5 students are more technology savvy
- Many elementary school teachers are not versed in science and this could allow for a higher quality of education rather than just preparing for a test
- Grade 5 data may provide more substantial use
- Move from 4 to 5 makes sense as it is the end of Elementary School
- Teachers will have more time to prepare students to take the test if it is moved to grade 5
- More science is taught in grades 3 and 4 compared to K-2 so students will be better prepared by grade 5
- Grade 5 is a better fit cognitively
- Grade 5 standards “glues” to Middle School standards

Concerns:

- Some schools are Grade 5 through Grade 8 and students attending those buildings would be assessed twice while there.

- Districts would have to handle the update of student IEP's
- Third Grade material retention could be an issue
- May be push back from parents against the move of test from one grade to another, but could be symptomatic of general pushback against testing
- Gaps in continuity will only be shifted

Below is a list of the committee members and the districts they represent:

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>School Where They Teach</b>
<b>Elementary School Committee</b>	
<b>Vincent Basciano</b>	Hillside Avenue School
<b>Matthew Tonzola</b>	H.W. Mountz
<b>Joseph Sulock</b>	Midstreams Elementary School
<b>Victoria Madden</b>	Meadowlands Environmental Center
<b>Carl Cimiluca*</b>	Newark Public Schools
<b>Brittany Celentano*</b>	Stillwater Township School
<b>Stephanie Hoff*</b>	Emma Havens Young Elementary
<b>Jonathan Nolde</b>	Campbell Elementary
<b>Christina Hillen</b>	Walter Hill School
<b>Brittaney Flynn</b>	Forrestdale
<b>Gargi Adhikari</b>	Holland Brook School
<b>Lauren Catts</b>	Thomas Sharp Elementary School
<b>Yolanda Boyd</b>	Burlington Township Middle School
<b>Catherine Krause</b>	Avalon
<b>Jessica Heller</b>	Lawrence Intermediate School
<b>Middle School Committee</b>	
<b>Victoria Madden</b>	Meadowlands Environmental Center
<b>Carl Cimiluca</b>	Newark Public Schools
<b>Catherine Justin</b>	Cinnaminson Middle School
<b>Gita Manchanda</b>	Piscataway Township High School
<b>Spring Williams</b>	William Allen Middle School
<b>Scott Goldthorp</b>	Cherry Hill Administration Building
<b>Steven Per</b>	Thomas Grover Middle School
<b>Heather Petersack</b>	Kenneth R. Olson Middle School
<b>Samantha Palermo*</b>	Drum Point Road Elementary
<b>James Finley</b>	Columbia Middle School
<b>Jessica DiBenedetti*</b>	Churchill Junior High School
<b>Gladys Dunn</b>	Lakewood Middle School
<b>Kyanna Ellerbe</b>	Bergen Arts and Science Charter
<b>Carlos Miranda</b>	Charles J. Riley School
<b>Robert Dally</b>	Knowlton Township Elementary School
<b>High School Committee</b>	
<b>Lisa Hayeck</b>	Cranford High School
<b>Aarti Mallya</b>	Pascack Valley Regional
<b>Anne Ippolito</b>	Piscataway High School

<b>Adrienne Nelson</b>	Elizabeth Board of Education
<b>Debbie Andres</b>	Paramus High School
<b>Gabriele Lorefice</b>	Union City High School
<b>Olivia Fredericks</b>	Parsippany Hills High School
<b>Dusty Carroll</b>	Seneca High School
<b>Manisha Shah</b>	Jersey City Public Schools
<b>Robert Covington</b>	Cherry Hill High East
<b>Brian Vernachio</b>	Toms River High School East
<b>Theodore Graham</b>	Passaic High School
<b>Erin Sharpe</b>	Cedar Creek
<b>Mary Ellen Aleksza</b>	North Hunterdon
<b>Jennifer Paul</b>	Pennsville Memorial High School

Any committee member marked with an asterisk (\*) was not present for the discussion.